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the COLLECTOR

A Current Record of Art, Bibliography, Antiquarianism, Etc.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY.

Vol. III., No. 17.
July 15, 1892.

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454 West 24th St., New York City.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00.
FOREIGN, \$2.50.

NOTICE.

Since the commencement of the period of summer drowsiness, the regular semi-monthly issues of THE COLLECTOR have been suspended, unless matter of sufficient importance should occur to call for an extra number. The next regular number of this paper will, therefore, appear on August 15th.

THE NEW YORK PRESS CLUB

OUT of early years of vicissitude and trial, the New York Press Club has been advanced to a permanent and commanding place among the leading socio-professional organizations of the world. It stands to-day very much in the position of one of the great trade guilds, which, in the past, extended to art and letters such efficient encouragement and protection, and compelled by their dignity and power the recognition of monarchs, and the respect of even the great feudal lords who gave scant honor to the sovereigns they served. No one not personally and intimately connected with journalism can, probably, completely comprehend the work which this association of men who live by the pen in this city has accomplished. And this work, far as it has advanced already, is practically but begun.

From a meagrely furnished little clubroom in a dingy Centre street barrack, the New York Press Club has become the chief association of its kind in existence. It has compacted its organization, it has established itself in power for benefiting not only its own members but others of the guild who require its aid, and it has forced upon the public the claims of men of intellect and creative ability to a consideration unknown to the obscure toiler in the anonymous walks of journalism in the past. It has been of incalculable benefit to members of the press in promoting a sense of mutual confidence and obligation, and inspiring them with the self-respect which is born of a true *esprit du corps*; and, on the other hand, it has vastly advanced the business interests of journalism by elevating the personal standard of its workers.

The New York Press Club has now secured a site for a clubhouse which shall be commensurate to its needs, and it is proposed to add to the capital of its building fund by holding an art exhibition and sale in the coming autumn. In view of the fact that the press is, and has always been, a great and generous factor in the advancement of the artistic interests of the country, our painters owe it to themselves to support this movement by contributions which shall be worthy of themselves. The closer the alliance between the press and art can be made, the more potent will each member of the alliance be for his own welfare and the welfare of others.

A number of our artists have already signified their intention to aid in the matter. Any readers of THE COLLECTOR who may desire further information on the subject may obtain it by addressing The Art Committee, of the New York Press Club, Nassau street, New York City, of which Mr. Willis Steel is Secretary.

DUST OF THE DOG DAYS

HOWEVER flattering it may be to a man to be viewed in the light of a sort of animated encyclopedia of ready reference, to be applied to on any and all occasions for the solution of questions varying from the puerile to the impossible, there must come a time when this honor, thrust upon him without solicitation, grows intolerably burdensome. As far as I am concerned, I must state, once and for all, that I can under no circumstances enter into correspondence of interest only to the persons who may choose to call upon me for it. The actual and necessary correspondence of this paper is alone sufficiently laborious and extensive. When subscribers may have a query to propound which possesses an interest to other readers, it will be answered in THE COLLECTOR. Merely personal questions may as well be left unasked, for no attention will be given to them.

I am in receipt of a note from a prominent collector and reader of this paper which raises some points most of my readers will appreciate. This gentleman very justly suggests that "the value of

THE COLLECTOR would be enhanced if you could measurably classify the matter, bringing together all pertaining to modern paintings, old masters, prints, books, philately, numismatics, etc., etc. It is becoming so replete with information that it is becoming burdensome to read through consecutively, and some sort of classification would be a boon to the reader." The trouble heretofore has been that, in the endeavor to secure and print the latest information upon these various topics, and so render THE COLLECTOR a real newspaper and not a mere trade journal or advertising circular, the columns have been kept open until the last possible moment, and any effective classification of the items would have involved a delay which would have proved annoying to the reader and costly to the publisher. However, as it approaches the end of its third year, this paper is working into a more systematized shape, and with the commencement of its fourth year, next November, I hope to be able to carry out the very reasonable recommendations of my friendly correspondent. In seeking special items out of the great mass of news printed in THE COLLECTOR I fre-